Laying of Nasik-Dahanu rail

†891. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has accorded sanction to the proposal for constructing rail-track on 167 kilometres long rail route between Nasik-Dahanu in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the status of the same; and

(c) the time limit fixed for completion of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A survey for construction of new broad gauge line from Dahanu Road to Nasik Road (168 kms.) was completed during 2000-01. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of this line had been assessed as Rs.821 crore with a negative rate of return. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it was not found feasible to consider the project.

Railway zone in Kerala

892. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many representations/submissions from competent authority of Kerala during the year 2008 for establishing a railway zone in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon;

(c) whether steps would be taken in affirmative for the above submission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) New Zones are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other operating / administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency without any regional considerations. The proposal when seen in the light of the above criteria has not been found feasible.

Upgradation of Tambaram railway station

893. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to upgrade Tambaram Railway Station in Tamil Nadu, equivalent to Egmore and Central railway stations of Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed financial allocation and the time frame for the completion of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Tambaram station was identified in 2006-07 for modernisation. Following passenger amenity works (Cost Rs. 387 lakhs) at this station have been planned for completion by March 2009 -

(i) Booking counter concourse, second class waiting hall etc.;

(ii) Improvement to platform flooring on platform nos. 1,2, 6, 7, 8 & 9;

(iii) Provision of electronically operated Train Arrival/Departure Display Boards;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.